Attorney Docket No.: BDERM-31657/US-4/CON

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

(previously presented) A topical composition comprising:

about 5% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid; a non-toxic zinc salt; and

water,

## wherein.

the composition has a pH of about 3.5 to about 4.1;

the composition does not comprise tyrosine;

and the composition is prepared by a process comprising:

- dissolving about 10% to about 50% of the ascorbic acid in water at a temperature of between about 60°C to about 90°C to provide an aqueous ascorbic acid solution of at least 20% (w/v);
- (b) cooling the aqueous ascorbic acid solution to below about 40°C:
- (c) combining the aqueous ascorbic acid solution with water, a non-toxic zinc salt, and ascorbic acid to provide a mixture comprising water, a non-toxic zinc salt, and about 5% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid; and
- (d) adjusting the pH of the mixture to about 3.5 to about 4.1.
- 2. (canceled)
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH
  of about 3.7 to about 4.0 and the pH is adjusted to about 3.7 to about 4.0 in step (d).
- (original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory compound.

- (previously presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound is a sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound is cystine, cysteine, N-acetylcysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, or methionine.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound is an aminosugar.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar is glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6phosphate, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, or N-acetylgalactosamine.
- (canceled)
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is distilled water, deionized water, or distilled deionized water.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is
  present in the topical composition in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 5%
  (w/v).
- 12. (original) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulfate.
- 13.-14. (canceled)
- (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is distilled or deionized water.

- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is alkyleneglycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.
- 18.-20. (canceled)
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a stimulant of protein synthesis.
- 22.-23. (canceled)
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.
- 26.-35. (canceled)
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, comprising about 10% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.
- (previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the aqueous ascorbic acid solution of step (a) has a pH of about 2.0 to about 2.5.
- 38.-41. (canceled)